

Jan. 26, 2015

Dear FCC Commissioners:

As a Town Councilor in Southbridge, MA, and a very concerned citizen in general, I strongly urge you to PROHIBIT the merger of Comcast with Time Warner. Furthermore, I urge you to break up the large media corporations that currently exist.

Over many years, we have seen merger after merger causing the quality of programming to decline significantly, its cost to rise, and, more crucially, the availability of alternative and independently-owned voices to plummet. Instead of promoting better broadcasting, we've seen intense consolidation of those resources for the sake of profit to the point where all of the news outlets in many parts of our nation are controlled by the same handful of corporations. That is exactly the opposite of the public interest, and is a fundamental reason for the decay of informed democracy in our country.

In our region, Comcast bought up most of Charter's assets, and the service was already mediocre at best. I personally have no experience with Comcast directly, but colleagues who have had it say nothing good about that company's service, and I see no reason further consolidation of any kind would improve that at all. Breaking up Comcast and other major communications firms, on the other hand, would help greatly by giving smaller firms a fairer chance to compete, encourage experimentation with new programming and ideas, and make the resulting companies more responsive to the people of the areas in which they operate.

Sincerely,
Gus Steeves
Southbridge Town Councilor
Southbridge, MA
(writing on my own behalf, not for my council)